DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

2002/03

106-04845/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT 3

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER 4

INTRODUCTION 5

DEPARTMENT PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS 7

FINANCIAL RESULTS 14

PERFORMANCE MEASURES 15

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION 32

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

The accountability report of the Department of Justice for the year ended March 31, 2003, is prepared pursuant to the *Provincial Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department business plan information for the fiscal year 2002/03. The reporting of Department outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgements and opinions by department management.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of the Department of Justice management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Department business plan for the year.

Michael G. Baker, Q.C.
Minister of Justice

Douglas J. Keefe, Q.C.
Deputy Minister of Justice

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

The document you are reading is published to help Nova Scotians become aware of the important work done on their behalf by the dedicated staff in the Department of Justice.

Each year, we are proud to report on the programs and services that help ensure the fair and effective administration of justice in Nova Scotia. As you will read, we serve Nova Scotians in many ways, by remaining committed to our mission and strategic goals. We encourage you to review our progress, based on the goals and objectives set out in the 2002/03 business plan.

I know firsthand that staff in our divisions and support services recognize the value in being accountable to each and every Nova Scotian.

Michael G. Baker, Q.C.
Minister of Justice

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this accountability report is to present results of the Department of Justice business plan for 2002/03. The business plan was developed in view of government's goals and priorities, and specifically around the department's mission, vision, strategic goals, and core business areas.

Mission:
The Department of Justice is committed to the fair and effective administration of justice and to excellence in service to the people of Nova Scotia.

Vision:
Nova Scotia is seen to be a place where people and their rights are respected. Justice will provide leadership in partnership with others to build a Province where:

- Citizens trust the justice system
- People are and feel safe and secure
- Disputes are effectively and sensitively resolved
- Access to Justice processes are timely and affordable
- Communities actively participate in the justice system
- Diversity is valued and respected

Strategic Goals:

- Improve public safety and security
- Reduce the harmful impact of crime on victims
- Improve access to justice
- Promote the lawful administration of public affairs

Core Business Areas:

- Oversight, governance and advice to police and private security services
- Provision of assistance to victims of crime
- Principled dispute resolution mechanisms
- Correctional services
- Legal services to government

The accountability report is based on the goals, priorities and outcomes set out in the business plan. Therefore, the accountability report should be read in conjunction with the business plan. The report is structured around the department's core business areas - while the priorities of the department may change over time, core businesses do not.

The report contains three main sections: department progress and accomplishments, financial results, and performance measures. It also includes supplemental information on crime rates in Nova Scotia.

During this reporting year, the Department of Justice experienced significant accomplishments in many areas. These include the implementation of the government response to the Russell Report on the Framework for Action Against Family Violence; the implementation of training, programs and services to comply with the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*; and the evaluation of the Province's capacity to respond to and manage threats to public security. Indeed, this evaluation provided the foundation for the Department to lead a government response during the Iraq war by way of an effective inter-departmental committee. While the threat level remained low in Nova Scotia, the war activated our public security plans which were developed as a result of the evaluation. This experience provided a means to test our plans, and ensure that Nova Scotia is in a state of emergency and public safety readiness if it is required.

As with many organizations in today's information-rich environment, the Department of Justice has recognized that the effective management of information and knowledge resources is critical to the mandate of the department, particularly to the process of principled decision- making. In light of this, a new division, the Information Management Division, has been created which, in addition to assembling several existing key information related functions, also has the mandate of leading improvements in how we capture, use, leverage, and provide access to information. The results of this added focus on information management are expected to be: increases in the utility of existing information sources and systems; improved information access mechanisms; enhanced accountability through justice metrics; improvements to justice business processes; and, generally, improvements to justice services resulting from improved integration and effectiveness of information related processes.

Key Principles:

We are here to make sure Nova Scotia keeps its national reputation as a safe province, where families can feel secure and confident about the future.

We believe there are better ways to resolve disputes, without going through costly and confrontational litigation. Conciliation, mediation, restorative justice, improved case management - are all examples of how we can help Nova Scotians save time and money while resolving difficult issues.

We believe that more attention should be paid to the vulnerable in our society, including victims of crime.

DEPARTMENT PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Core Business Area:
Oversight, governance and advice to police and private security services

Priorities:

- ***In consultation with key public services, lead an evaluation of the Province's current capacity to respond to and manage threats to public safety, identify deficiencies, and develop and coordinate a plan to effectively address deficiencies.***

After September 11, 2001, public safety was no longer confined to traditional criminal activity and natural disasters. Public safety responses now had to include contingencies for acts of terrorism. This required an evaluation of the province's capacity to respond to such public safety concerns. At the direction of the Ministers' and Deputy Ministers' Public Safety and Anti-Terrorism (PSAT) Committee, the Department was tasked with evaluating government's response capacity.

An inventory of the province's emergency infrastructure, as well as health and law enforcement concerns was undertaken. Consultations were held with key stakeholders. A report then followed which was presented to the Department and set the stage to enhance Nova Scotia's response to public safety and anti-terrorism.

It was recognized that public safety and security were no single department's responsibility. Public safety in the 21st century will require a collaborative response by government as a whole. The interdepartmental committees are comprised of officials from 11 different departments and agencies, and have resulted in significantly improving communications, which is a key component to an effective response to public safety issues. These committees have also enhanced contingency plans and will continue to ensure the province's state of public safety and security readiness.

- ***Explore legislative means to enhance public safety and security measures, including the examination of existing legislation.***

During 2002/03, the Department undertook a review of the Nova Scotia *Police Act*, including an examination and analysis of similar governance models in other Canadian jurisdictions. Recommendations for changes to the Act were developed and a draft discussion document was released in December 2002. Stakeholders were asked to respond to the document and their comments were analyzed. The Regulations to the Act were revised in 2002/03. Stakeholder consultations will continue into next fiscal year. It is anticipated that the revised Act and Regulations will be ready for introduction during the Spring 2004 sitting of the legislature.

A review of the *Private Investigators and Private Guards Act* was also conducted. Consultations were undertaken with other provincial jurisdictions. A revised Act is currently being drafted for stakeholder consultation in 2004.

Core Business Area:
Provision of assistance to victims of crime

Priorities:

- ***Implement the Government response to the Russell Report on the Framework for Action Against Family Violence.***

Several activities were undertaken by the Department to implement the Government response to the Russell Report:

- The Framework for Action Against Family Violence was updated, including policies and procedures for Policing and Victim Services, Court Services, Correctional Services and the Public Prosecution Service. The new Framework included some enhancements including the new dominant aggressor policy and the use of risk assessment tools by police, Correctional Services and Victim Services;

- A high risk case coordination protocol framework has been developed by the Department of Justice and the Public Prosecution Service. Further consultation is taking place with the Department of Community Services to expand the protocol to become a provincial framework to provide structure for regional protocol development;

- Domestic violence coordinator positions were funded at a cost of $157,500 to Government — these positions assist the police in assessing ongoing risks and ensuring processes are in place for case coordination and proactive information sharing in high risk cases;

- The Justice Learning Centre was established. The Centre was pivotal in training all justice workers on understanding domestic violence and policies and procedures related to the updated Framework for Action Against Family Violence. Train-the-trainer sessions were held in December 2002 and January 2003 with seventy trainers participating. These trainers subsequently trained all justice workers, including the RCMP and municipal police. The Centre provided, and continues to provide, domestic violence training on:
    - understanding domestic violence,
    - the Framework for Action Against Family Violence (including risk assessment and high risk case coordination protocols),
    - the *Domestic Violence Intervention Act* (proclaimed on April1, 2003), and,
    - policies and procedures for justice professionals for responding to domestic violence.

- ***Implement, in partnership with Public Prosecution Service, an action plan to improve the experience of child victims in the criminal justice system.***

The Department lead a joint departmental and Public Prosecution Service committee that was responsible for implementing the action plan. The committee submitted a progress report in April 2002. Training on debrief and closure sessions was completed for Support Workers who are contracted to provide court preparation sessions. Child victim/witness issues were included as part of the fall training for Crown Attorneys. Where possible, new court facilities and renovated courts will include child-friendly components of courtroom design. Ongoing tracking of both children's experiences and improvements in court scheduling has been initiated for annual analysis.

The final report is due in 2003/04 and will respond to recommendations for improvements in areas such as age-appropriate curriculum tools, court facilities and scheduling, and sensitivity to children's inherent vulnerability.

Core Business Area:
Principled dispute resolution mechanisms

Priorities:

- ***Improve access to family justice services by creating tools and providing information to self-represented litigants; and by enhancing processes to reduce delays in accessing services.***

A steering committee was established to evaluate the needs of self-represented litigants and to prioritize initiatives to respond to these needs. To address an immediate need, 28 self-help court process guides were developed and made available at the justice centres and on the Department's website. Seven of the guides have been translated into French and posted on the website. Further initiatives will be identified through a needs assessment which is currently being undertaken. A report with recommendations will be completed in 2003/04.

- ***Address the requirement to provide safe, secure and functional courthouse facilities through the construction of a new courthouse in Port Hawkesbury and renovations to various courts throughout the province.***

Space and program needs were identified for the new Port Hawkesbury facility and a preliminary concept design was prepared. Construction of the facility will begin in the Spring of 2004.

Renovation work for Halifax Provincial Court began in 2002/03 with the identification of space and program needs and the development of preliminary concept designs. Construction work has started and work is expected to be completed in 2003/04.

- ***Implement new federal legislation which will amend the Criminal Code to reduce inefficiencies in the criminal justice system by providing for the use and filing of electronic documents with courts and by eliminating unnecessary court appearances by accused persons, victims and witnesses.***

A committee was established to oversee the implementation of the new federal legislation and an implementation strategy was developed. The legislation was reviewed and Court Services staff were informed of its impact. The Policing and Victim Services division continues to work on a project to review electronic transmission of documents from police agencies to courts. Court Services will respond to the outcome of this project to consider options for the integration of an e-filing alternative. Video conferencing equipment is now available at the Halifax Law Courts for Supreme Court matters.

Core Business Area:
Correctional services

Priorities:

- ***Enhance the network of safe, secure correctional facilities through the construction of a new institution in Yarmouth.***

The site for the new Southwest Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Yarmouth was selected and the contracts awarded. Construction of the facility began in January of 2003 and it is expected that the facility will be open in the Spring of 2004.

- ***Implement a plan to provide programs and services required to comply with the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act, including a comprehensive training program for all justice workers and inter-agency protocols to coordinate services for youth in conflict with the law.***

The new federal *Youth Criminal Justice Act* came into effect on April 1, 2003. In preparation for the implementation of the Act, the Department developed training materials that included a pocket guide, trainers' manuals, participants' manuals and an educational video. A total of nine train-the-trainer sessions were held throughout Nova Scotia. The 83 participants in train-the-trainer sessions included representatives from divisions within the Department (Correctional Services, Court Services, Policing and Victim Services) as well as the RCMP and all municipal police services in the province. Participants then trained staff in their respective divisions/organizations. In all, approximately 3,000 justice professionals were trained.

Specific workshops were developed and delivered for the Public Prosecution Service, RCMP, NS Legal Aid, and Dalhousie Legal Aid. The Department also provided orientation sessions to other justice partners (eg. Department of Health, Department of Community Services, Department of Education, and the Department of Natural Resources). Seven jurisdictions across Canada reprinted Nova Scotia's pocket guide for their use.

A variety of new operational processes were developed within the Department to facilitate the adjustments required by the new legislation. This included the development of new forms and enhancements to the justice oriented information system (JOIS).

Further, the Department has partnered with the Department of Health for the delivery of mental health services for sentenced youth, including the provision of treatment arising from Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision orders. Resources have also been provided to facilitate reintegration planning and supervision, and the Restorative Justice program will provide extrajudicial sanctions (alternative to formal court processes) when appropriate.

Core Business Area:
Legal services to government

Priorities:

- ***Continue to expand capacity to do government's legal work.***

An additional solicitor was hired to help meet the legal service needs of Emergency Health Services and Medical Services Contracting areas. In addition, the majority of legal service work in relation to adult protection in the metro area was transferred to the Legal Services branch of the Department of Justice.

An analysis of the legal service needs of the new Energy Department was undertaken to determine service needs and types of services required. As a result of this analysis, a plan was developed and implemented, resulting in a reduction of almost 50 % in private legal service costs of the Energy Department.

- ***Monitor and ensure that legal services engaged through the private sector are retained in accordance with the Acquisition of Private Legal Services Policy and the Employment Equity for Crown Law Agents Policy.***

Directors and Solicitors met and continue to meet with the Deputy Minister and senior staff of each department to review their legal needs and the Acquisition of Private Legal Services Policy. Quarterly reports from the Department of Finance on private legal service expenditures are reviewed and analyzed by the Department. As a result, reporting issues have been identified and the Department of Justice is working with the Department of Finance to improve the accuracy of the financial reports on private legal service costs.

The Employment Equity Policy has been integrated with the Private Legal Services Policy. We are now able to monitor private legal services acquisition for compliance with employment equity.

Core Business Area: The proper administration of justice in the Province in partnership with others

Priorities:

- ***In partnership with the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), establish a Justice Learning Centre to better respond to the training and development requirements associated with new legislation and programs.***

The Justice Learning Centre (JLC) was officially opened on September 26, 2002. The JLC is located at the Truro campus of the NSCC, with access to training facilities and resources at campuses across Nova Scotia.

The JLC was pivotal in training all justice workers on understanding domestic violence and policies and procedures related to the updated Framework for Action Against Family Violence. Train-the-trainer sessions were held in December 2002 and January 2003 with seventy trainers participating. These trainers subsequently trained all justice workers, including the RCMP and municipal police.

The domestic violence training materials and training materials on the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* can be found on the Justice Learning Centre's website, http://jlc.nscc.ns.ca.

- ***Enhance accountability mechanisms in respect of entities for which the Minister of Justice is accountable to the House of Assembly.***

A departmental committee was established to explore accountability reporting issues. A template was developed to inventory all Agencies, Boards and Commissions, and other bodies for which the Minister of Justice is accountable. The template is intended to capture pertinent information about each organization, including a component on current reporting relationships. Initial work on compiling the inventory was undertaken in 2002/03 and will continue in 2003/04.

- ***Support the federal government in their plan to implement a national sex offender registry.***

The federal bill establishing the national sex offender registry, Bill C-23, received second reading in April 2003, and is currently with the federal Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights for a clause by clause review. The Department continues to be involved in this issue on a national level by participating in the federal/provincial/territorial working group which helped develop the model for the registry. Also, the Department continues to chair a provincial committee of affected stakeholders (police, Crown, health officials) to develop procedures for participation in the national registry.

- ***Redevelop the Justice Oriented Information System to meet the requirements and objectives of new federal youth legislation and to facilitate data exchange among justice stakeholders.***

Development of the Justice Enterprise Information Network (JEIN) was initiated in 2000 to address the requirements of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*. The JEIN system will replace the Justice Oriented Information System (JOIS) which has been the primary integrated criminal justice information system in Nova Scotia since 1986. During 2002/03, construction work continued on the JEIN system, which is targeted for implementation in 2004.

Other Significant Accomplishments

Early in 2003, following the commencement of the Iraq war, the public safety and anti-terrorism plan developed in late 2002 was called into action. While the threat level remained low in Nova Scotia, the activity abroad resulted in activating the PSAT contingency plan. Regular briefings were received on the Iraq war, including briefings on security updates and other emerging issues.

Communications were tested and the enhanced contingency plans resulting from the earlier security evaluation proved very valuable. The collaborative model relying upon a committee of inter-departmental personnel served Nova Scotia well. Its accomplishments included:

- Fostering coordination and communications across all levels of government through a communication network that allowed information to pass from the international community all the way to the municipal community;

- Coordinating and assessing resource requirements and capacity across Departments and Agencies to ensure an effective emergency response system;

- Identifying policies and procedures to support public safety.

Significant strides were made during the Iraq war to forge active partnerships. These partnerships and experiences will provide yet another means to ensure that Nova Scotia is in a state of emergency and public safety readiness if it is required.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Budget Variances (000's)	*Allocations*	*Actual*	*Increase (Decrease)*
Court Services	***$26,734***	***$24,414***	***($2,320)***

Fees collected for services provided by this division were over plan by $2,219,000. As a result of increased activity, fees in a number of areas including court costs and the offices of probate, prothonotary and sheriff were over plan. As well, division expenditures were under budget by $101,000. These variances resulted in a net under-expenditure of $2,320,000 in Court Services.

Correctional Services	***$18,302***	***$19,113***	***$811***

Although expenditures were overspent by $2,243,000, recoveries were also over budget by $1,432,000, leaving a net over-expenditure of $811,000. The major over-expenditure was as a result of additional costs at the new correctional facility in Dartmouth ($1.4 million) due to increased overtime and casual employee requirements. Similar costs were incurred in other adult facilities ($480,000). Costs with respect to the implementation of the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act* were also over plan but were offset by increased recoveries from the federal government. Sundry recoveries with respect to adult institutions were also over plan.

Policing & Victim Services	***$20,798***	***$20,366***	***($432)***

Expenditures were under budget by $441,000 partially due to unexpected costs with respect to RCMP and Native Policing. Sundry recoveries with respect to RCMP policing were under plan by $9,000, leaving this division with a net under-expenditure of $432,000.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid	***$9,428***	***$10,290***	***$862***

Additional funds were required to cover sundry operating costs.

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner	***$1,294***	***$1,328***	***$34***

No significant variance.

Administration	***$15,197***	***$15,260***	***$63***

No significant variance.

Gross Expenditures	***$184,824***	***$187,323***	***$2,499***
Net Program Expenses - Net of Recoveries	***$91,753***	***$90,771***	***($982)***
Funded Staff (FTEs)	***1,320.5***	***1,301.5***	***(19.0)***

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

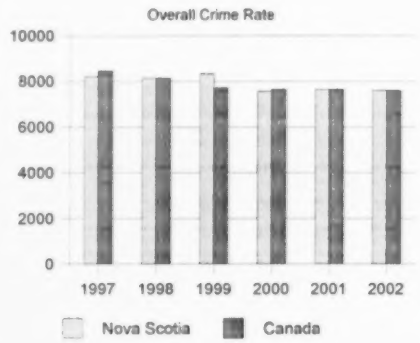
CORE BUSINESS AREA (GOVERNMENT): Families and Communities

DESIRED OUTCOME: Safe and vibrant communities

MEASURE: Overall crime rate

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The overall crime rate is a key indicator of social and economic well-being within a society. It indicates how many criminal incidents have been reported to the police for violent, property, drug, and other offences, excluding Criminal Code traffic offences. The number is standardized per 100,000 of the population so that rates can be compared among geographic areas with different populations and over time.



The crime rate is affected by factors including reporting of criminal incidents by the public, level of enforcement by the police, level of police resources, changes in police enforcement practices and changes in law or government policy. The Department of Justice plays an important role in controlling crime, by setting standards for policing, contributing to the funding of policing services and supporting community-based initiatives which help to prevent crime.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002 in Nova Scotia, there were 7,609 criminal incidents reported per 100,000 population. This figure is almost even with the national average of 7,590 criminal incidents per 100,000 population. As indicated in the graph, the crime rate in Nova Scotia has remained fairly steady over the last three years.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for the future is to maintain Nova Scotia's crime rate below the national average.

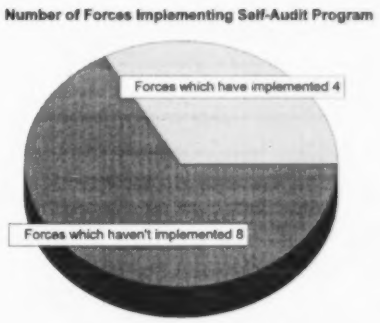
CORE BUSINESS AREA: Oversight, governance and advice to police and private security services

DESIRED OUTCOME: Effective and efficient policing services

MEASURE: Percentage of municipal police services with a self-audit program in place

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

This measure involves all municipal police services in Nova Scotia. There are currently 12[1] municipal police services. Self-audits contribute to an effective and efficient organization by providing an ongoing review of the organization's activities with the aim of improving performance. The implementation of the self-audit program can be affected by a number of factors including: police resources and legislative and/or policy requirements.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, DOJ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 02/03, four out of 12 municipal police forces (33%) either had a self-audit process in place or had a member of their respective police forces trained in the self-audit process.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have all municipal forces operating a self-audit process by the end of 2004/05. In order to achieve this target, the Department sponsored in May 2003 a one-week self-audit training course for all municipal police services. A comprehensive audit policy is also being developed.

[1]The 2001/02 Accountability Report and Business Plan reported a total of 11 municipal police services in Nova Scotia. In 2002/03, Westville Police became an independent police service, resulting in a total of 12 municipal police services.

CORE BUSINESS AREA: Provision of assistance to victims of crime

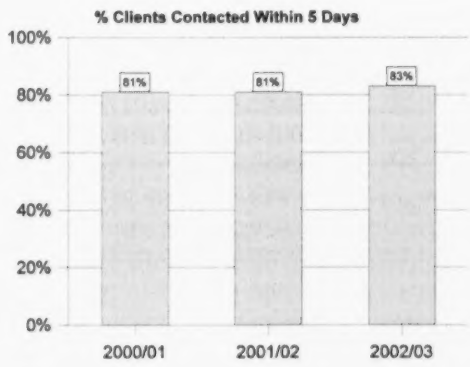
DESIRED OUTCOME: Timely provision of service

MEASURE: The percentage of Regional Victim Service cases where contact with the client is initiated within five days of referral

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The length of time between referral to the Regional Victim Services program and contact being made with the client provides information on whether support to victims of crime is being provided in a timely manner. The percentage corresponds to those contacted by a representative of the Victim Services program within five days of referral.

The length of time statistic can be affected by a number of factors including: staff resources, the number of referrals to the program, and the quality of the contact information provided by the referral source at the time of the referral.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, DOJ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002/03, 83% of the cases that were referred to the Regional Victim Services program were contacted within five days of the referral being made. This figure has risen slightly from previous years.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to increase the percentage of cases to 85% by 2004/05. The program will work with referral sources to ensure complete contact information is provided, allowing for the reduction of delays in client contact.

CORE BUSINESS AREA: Provision of assistance to victims of crime

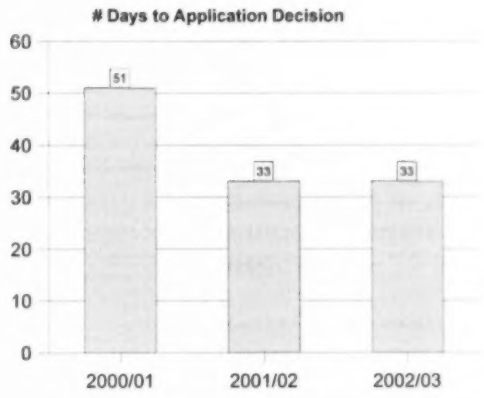
DESIRED OUTCOME: Timely provision of service

MEASURE: Median number of days from date application received by Criminal Injuries Counselling Program until decision rendered

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The length of time between when an application is received by the Criminal Injuries Counselling program and when a decision is rendered provides information on whether support to victims of crime is being provided in a timely manner. The figure reported is the median number of days from when an application is received and a decision is rendered.

The length of time statistic can be affected by a number of factors including: the length of time it takes various sources to provide case-relevant information allowing for a decision to be made, the complexity of the case, the workload and staffing of the program, and the overall volume of applications received.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, DOJ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The median number of days between date received and decision rendered for applications received during 2002/03 was thirty three. This figure has remained unchanged compared to 2001/02, and continues to fall within the target area.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to maintain the median processing time at forty days or less.

CORE BUSINESS AREA: Provision of assistance to victims of crime

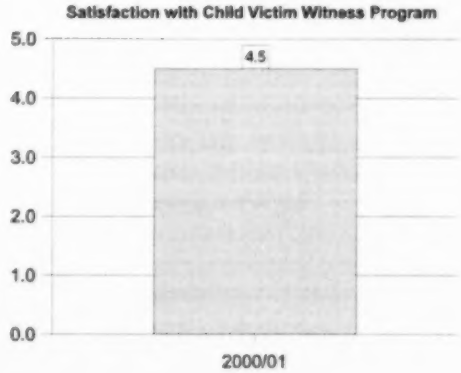
DESIRED OUTCOME: Satisfied clients

MEASURE: Client satisfaction with the Child Victim Witness Program

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The level of client satisfaction is used to assess the quality of service provided. The level of client satisfaction with the Child Victim Witness program is assessed during an exit interview with the client, a process initiated in July, 2002. A scale is used with 1 indicating poor service and 5 indicating excellent service.

The level of satisfaction with the service provided by staff of the program can be affected by a number of factors including: the expectations of the clients, the outcome of the court process and the service provided by program staff.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, DOJ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2000/01, based on a preliminary study using a non-representative sample, the level of satisfaction with the service averaged 4.5 out of 5. Full service implementation of the exit interview in 2003/04 will provide comparison data for the 2000/01 figure.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to maintain the level of satisfaction at 4 out of 5 or higher. An annual report will provide key issues for program analysis and modification.

CORE BUSINESS AREA: Provision of assistance to victims of crime

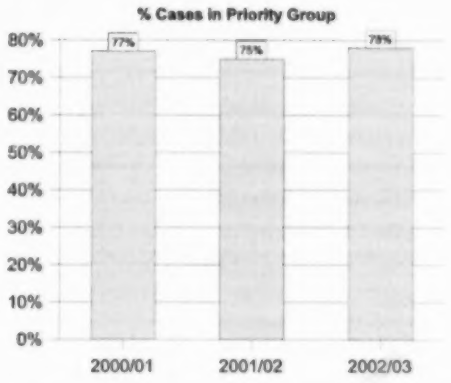
DESIRED OUTCOME: Effective targeting of service

MEASURE: Percentage of cases from Regional Victim Services Program that are in high priority group

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The percentage of clients served in the high priority group (i.e., domestic violence cases, offences involving children, homicide, offences causing bodily harm/death, physical assault, robbery, sexual assault, criminal harassment, uttering threats, hostage-taking and kidnapping) provides information on whether the Regional Victim Services is effectively targeting its services.

This percentage can be influenced by a number of factors including: the frequency of specific types of crimes occurring in the population, knowledge of the Regional Victim Services Program among Justice partners in the community, and the number of referrals to the program.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, DOJ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002/03, the percentage of cases that fell into the priority group for Regional Victim Services program was 78%, a slight increase from the previous fiscal year where the figure was 75%. The program continues to maintain its target for this measure.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to maintain the percentage of cases in the high priority group at 75% or above. Outreach and promotion of the service to key referral sources will continue.

CORE BUSINESS AREA: Provision of assistance to victims of crime

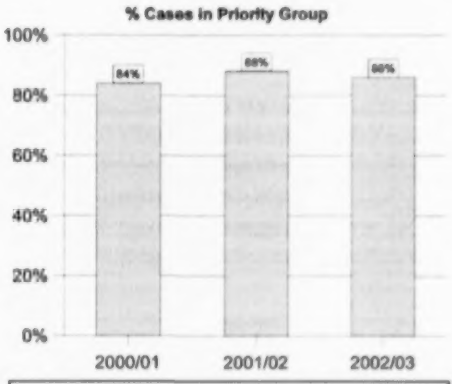
DESIRED OUTCOME: Effective targeting of service

MEASURE: Percentage of cases from Criminal Injuries Counselling Program that are in high priority group

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The percentage of clients served in the high priority group (i.e., domestic violence cases, offences involving children, homicide, offences causing bodily harm/death, physical assault, robbery, sexual assault, criminal harassment, uttering threats, hostage-taking and kidnapping) provides information on whether the Criminal Injuries Counselling Program is effectively targeting its services to priority groups.

This percentage can be influenced by a number of factors including: the frequency of specific types of crimes occurring in the population, the types of applications submitted to the Program for counselling, the policies governing the process, and the interpretation of the policies by Program staff.



Source: Policing and Victim Services, DOJ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002/03, the percentage of cases that fell into the priority group for the Criminal Injuries Counselling Program was 86%, only a slight decrease from the previous fiscal year (88% for 2001/02). The program continues to maintain its target for this measure.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to maintain the percentage of cases in the high priority group at 80% or above. Outreach and promotion of the service to key referral sources will continue.

CORE BUSINESS AREA: Principled dispute resolution mechanisms

DESIRED OUTCOME: Reduced delay in family court processes

MEASURE: Percentage of cases that completed the conciliation process within three[2] months or less of initiation

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

This measure is useful in assessing the waiting times and the quality of service provided in the conciliation process. The figure reported is the percentage of cases that took three months or less to complete the conciliation process in the Family Division of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. Data are based on a random sample of cases for the fiscal year 1999/00.

Source: Policy, Planning & Research, DOJ

The indicator is affected by a number of different factors including: the number of cases being processed through the conciliation process, the number of conciliators available to deal with the case, the relationship between the parties, and the effectiveness of the conciliation process.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 1999/00, 59% of the cases that proceeded through conciliation completed the process in three months or less. Data collection on the 2003/04 fiscal year is planned. This will provide comparison data for the 1999/00 figure.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target is, by 2004/05, to have 70% of the cases complete conciliation in three months or less. It is anticipated that case processing will improve by streamlining documentation, allocating appropriate staffing resources, and more effective case management. This will include offering an enhanced conciliation service resulting in the ability to offer a wider range of options to clients. In effect, more settlements should be reached.

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[2] In the 2001/2002 Accountability Report, the measure for timeliness of cases processed was the percentage of cases that completed the conciliation process within *six* months or less of initiation. This measure was changed to three months or less as it more accurately reflects the goal of conciliation. In addition, the figure for 1999/2000 was inaccurately reported in both the 2001/2002 Accountability Report and the 2003/2004 Department of Justice Business Plan. The accurate figure is 59%.

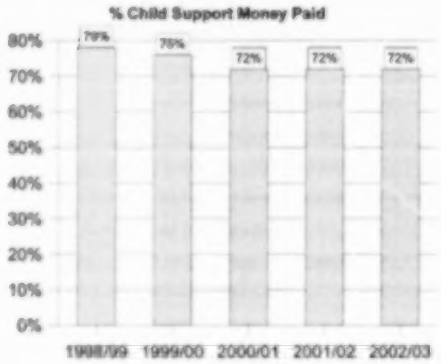
CORE BUSINESS AREA: Principled dispute resolution mechanisms

DESIRED OUTCOME: Child support payments paid on time and in full

MEASURE: Percentage of money owed in child support that is collected

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The amount of money received by the Maintenance Enforcement Program versus the amount of money realizable from court orders provides information on whether parents who have a child support order from the court are receiving the amount of money which is supposed to be paid to them. The figure reported is the total amount of money received by the program expressed as a percentage of the total amount of money which should have been submitted during the time period.



Source: Maintenance Enforcement Program, DOJ

The collection of child support payments is affected by a number of different factors including: the economic conditions in society, the relationship between the party paying child support and the party receiving it, and the level of enforcement activity carried out by the Maintenance Enforcement Program.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002/03, the percentage of money collected was 72%. This figure has remained unchanged since 2000/01.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have a collection rate of 74 % by 2004/05. The program will actively pursue cases in default, particularly those in which a payment has never been made.

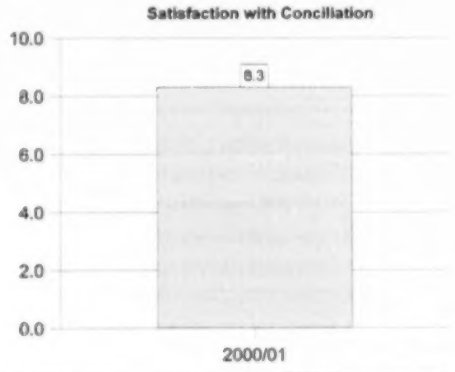
CORE BUSINESS AREA: Principled dispute resolution mechanisms

DESIRED OUTCOME: Satisfied clients

MEASURE: Client rating of conciliator performance

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The level of client satisfaction with conciliation services provides information on the overall quality of service provided. The rating of the conciliator performance is on a 10 point scale with 1 indicating a low level of satisfaction and 10 indicating a high level of satisfaction. The satisfaction measure is obtained from a telephone survey of approximately 200 conciliation clients who were randomly selected.



Source: Policy, Planning & Research, DOJ

The level of satisfaction with the service provided by conciliators can be affected by a number of factors including the expectations of the clients, the outcome of the conciliation process and the service provided by the conciliator.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2000/01, the level of satisfaction with the performance of the conciliator averaged 8.3 out of 10. Plans are to collect data in order to compare with the 2000/01 figure. Results would be reported in the 2003/04 reporting period.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to maintain the level of client satisfaction above 7.5 out of 10. The department is developing an enhanced conciliation service which will allow clients to have a wider range of options available to them. It is anticipated that this will have a positive effect on the quality of service provided to clients.

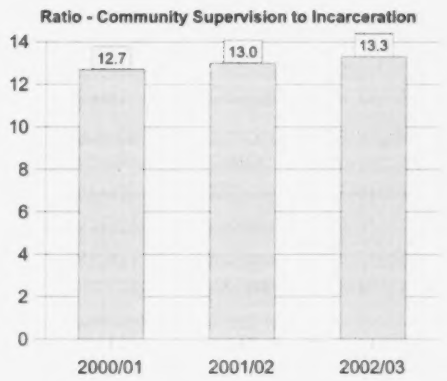
CORE BUSINESS AREA: Correctional services

DESIRED OUTCOME: Effective use of alternatives to incarceration

MEASURE: Ratio of adults under community supervision to adults in facilities

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The ratio of adult offenders in Nova Scotia under community supervision to adult offenders in facilities is calculated by adding the number of offenders on probation, serving conditional sentences, on temporary absence and on day parole, divided by the number of adult offenders serving sentences in correctional facilities. This indicator provides information on the extent to which alternatives to incarceration are being used. It can be affected by a number of factors including: sentencing practices of judges, the use of discretion on the part of Correctional Services workers in granting temporary absences, and the nature of the offence committed by the offender.



Source: Correctional Services, DOJ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

For 2002/03, there were 13 adult offenders under community supervision for every adult offender in a correctional facility. This figure is virtually unchanged from 2000/01, but there is some indication of movement toward the target measure of 14.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have the ratio increase to 14 to 1 by 2004/05 through the use of the temporary absence program, parole, diversion programming, fine options, and other alternatives to reduce the need to incarcerate sentenced offenders.

CORE BUSINESS AREA: Correctional services

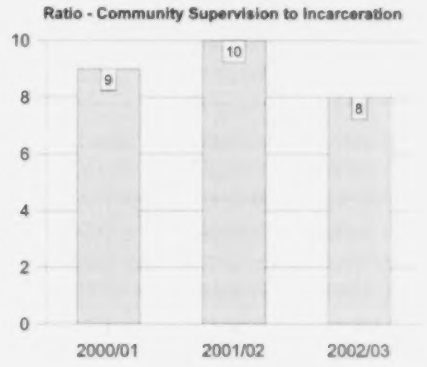
DESIRED OUTCOME: Effective use of alternatives to incarceration

MEASURE: Ratio of youth under community supervision to youth in facilities

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The ratio of young persons in Nova Scotia under community supervision to young persons in facilities is calculated by adding the number of offenders on probation, serving community portions of their sentences, on temporary absence or reintegration leave, and on day parole, divided by the number of young persons serving sentences in youth correctional facilities.

This indicator provides information on the extent to which alternatives to incarceration are being used. It can be affected by a number of factors including: sentencing practices of judges, the use of discretion on the part of Correctional Services workers in granting temporary absences or reintegration leaves, the nature of the offence committed by the offender and changes in legislation/policy.



Source: Correctional Services, DOJ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

For 2002/03, there were 8 young persons under community supervision for every young person in a youth correctional facility. This figure represents a decline from the last two years.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to maintain a ratio of 10 to 1 or greater. Reintegration planning, in accordance with the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act* will assist staff in developing appropriate release plans for youth that will see them released to the community under supervision at the earliest appropriate time.

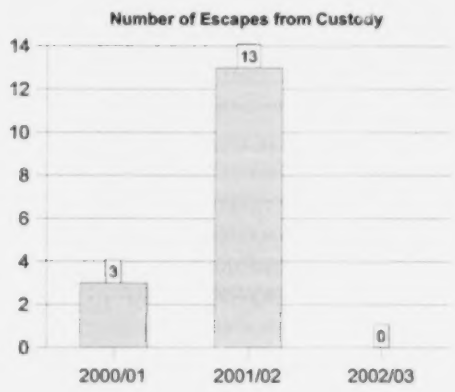
CORE BUSINESS AREA: Correctional services

DESIRED OUTCOME: Safe and secure facility operations

MEASURE: Number of escapes per year from a correctional facility

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The number of escapes from custody in a year provides information on the security level of correctional facilities. The figure reported is the total number of escapes from adult and young offender facilities. The number of escapes indicator could be influenced by a number of factors including: the number of offenders incarcerated, staffing resources, effectiveness of security policies and procedures, and the effectiveness of correctional staff in maintaining security.



Source: Correctional Services, DOJ

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002/03, there were no escapes from adult or youth correctional facilities. This figure represents a significant decrease from the previous fiscal year (13 in 2001/02).

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to continue to have no escapes. The opening of the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility has minimized the risk of escapes.

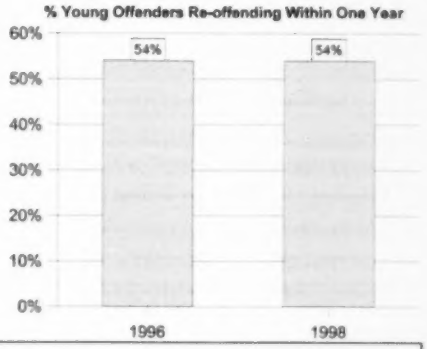
CORE BUSINESS AREA: Correctional services

DESIRED OUTCOME: Reduced recidivism

MEASURE: Percent of incarcerated youth who re-offend within one year of release

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The percentage of incarcerated young persons who are convicted of a criminal offence within one year of release is one of the key indicators of recidivism among young persons. This statistic is derived from a systematic random sample of cases where approximately half of the young persons incarcerated in a youth correctional facility have a follow-up done to see if they have subsequently been convicted of a criminal offence. Data are collected approximately two years after the young person is released from a correctional facility.



Source: Policy, Planning & Research, DOJ

The level of re-offending can be affected by a number of different factors including: the success of rehabilitative programs/services, enforcement activity by the police, support offered by the family of the young person, levels of delay in the court system where a conviction would take place, and the level of support and/or supervision provided by probation officers.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

For the 1998 group of young offenders, 54% re-offended within one year of release from the correctional facility. This figure is unchanged when compared to the 1996 figure.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have the percentage of young persons re-offending within one year decrease to 50% in the 2004/05 reporting year. New modes of supervision for youth are being developed, and Restorative Justice and Centre 24-7 will also help reduce the risk of re-offending.

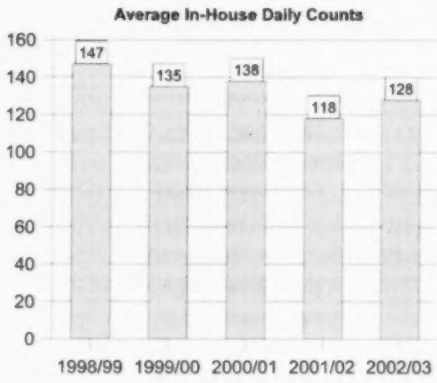
CORE BUSINESS AREA: Correctional services

DESIRED OUTCOME: Reduced incarceration of young offenders

MEASURE: Daily in-house population counts

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The daily in-house population counts for young persons tell us the number of young persons who are in a correctional facility at any one point in time. The figures reported are an average of the daily in-house population figures for a fiscal year period, and includes offenders who are remanded and those serving sentences. The figures exclude young persons on approved conditional releases from the youth correctional facility, e.g., temporary absences and reintegration leaves.



Source: Policy, Planning & Research, DOJ

The in-house population counts can be affected by a number of different factors including: the number of offenses taking place, their seriousness, and judicial discretion with respect to remanding young persons into custody and in using non-custodial sentencing options.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

For 2002/03, there was, on average, an in-house population count of 128 young persons. This figure represents an increase from the previous fiscal year (118 in 2001/02).

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

The target for this measure is to have an average daily in-house population count of 124 or less. It is anticipated that reintegration planning (releasing youth back into the community under supervision at the earliest appropriate point in their sentence) coupled with new modes of supervision for youth, will reduce the incarceration rates of young offenders.

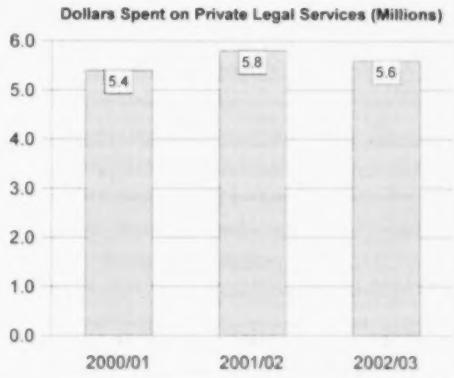
CORE BUSINESS AREA: Legal services to government

DESIRED OUTCOME: Cost-effective delivery of legal services

MEASURE: Annual cost to government of private legal services

WHAT DOES THIS MEASURE TELL US?

The amount of money spent during the fiscal year on private legal services for the Government provides information on the extent to which Government is procuring work from private lawyers/legal consultants rather than using internal resources. The dollar amounts reported are obtained from the Nova Scotia Department of Finance and represent all payments to law firms coded as 'legal services.'



Source: Legal Services, DOJ

The annual cost of private legal services is influenced by a number of factors including: the need to acquire outside legal advice for specialized cases requiring a high level of expertise in an area, and policy decisions to increase internal legal resources to handle cases.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 2002/03, the dollar figure for the annual cost to Government of private legal services was $5.6 million. This figure represents a slight decrease from 2002/03.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO/BE IN THE FUTURE?

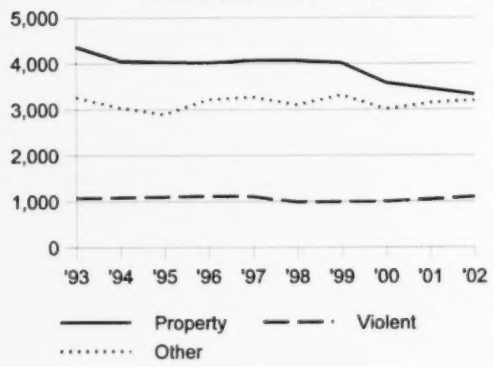
The target for this measure is to have an annual cost of approximately $3 million by 2004/05. Building capacity within the Legal Services Division should reduce the need for private legal services.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

CRIME RATES IN NOVA SCOTIA

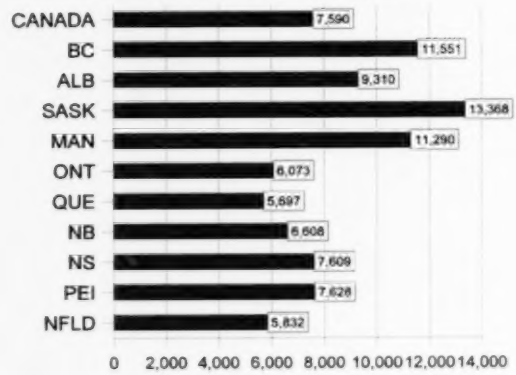
This section provides an overview of crime rates in Nova Scotia with comparisons to other provinces in Canada. While there is public perception that crime in Nova Scotia is increasing, the statistics say otherwise.

Crime Rates in Nova Scotia



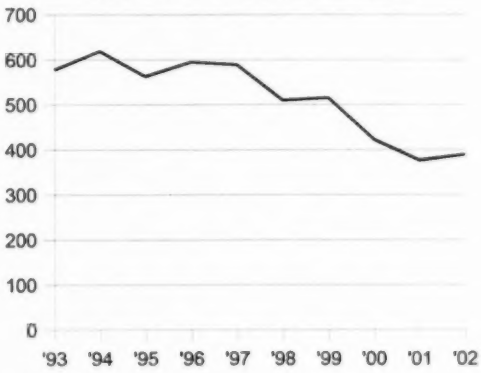
Between 1993 and 2002, property crime rates declined by 24 per cent. Between 1993 and 2002, violent crime rates increased by 3 per cent. The rates for other crimes, such as arson, bail violations, etc., decreased by 2 per cent from 1993 to 2002. Overall crime rates in Nova Scotia are decreasing.

Crime Rates in Canada, 2002



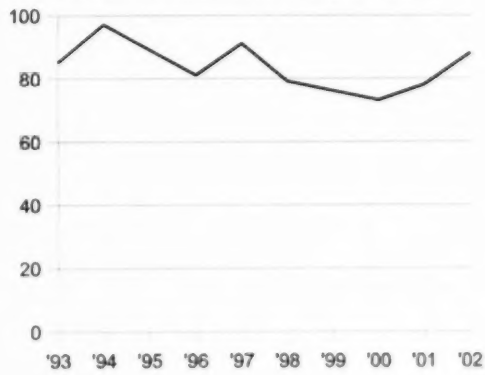
How do we compare to the rest of the country? Saskatchewan had the highest crime rate at 13,368 incidents per 100,000 population. Quebec had the lowest rate at 5,697 per 100,000 population. At home, our rate was 7,609[3] per 100,000 population, which is around the national average, the sixth highest in Canada and the second highest in Atlantic Canada.

Youth Crime Rates, Nova Scotia



There is a strong perception that youth crime is on the rise. In 1993, the youth crime rate was 577 per 10,000 youth population and by 2002, the rate had declined by 33 per cent to 389 per 10,000 youth. Therefore, youth crime rates, as measured by the number of young persons charged by police, have been declining.

Youth Violent Crime Rates, Nova Scotia



Youth violent crime rates have been fluctuating over the past ten years. They peaked in 1994 at 97 per 10,000 and were 88 per 10,000 youth in 2002, a 9 per cent decrease. From 2001 to 2002, the rates increased by 13 per cent, from 78 to 88 per 10,000.

[3] This figure was reported by Statistics Canada. It may appear in other documents created by the Nova Scotia Department of Justice as 7,610 per 100,000 due to a rounding error.